

St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Our Parish

Our Lives on Earth are Our Pathway to Heaven

*"But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written:
'Be holy, because I am holy.'" (1 Peter 1: 15-16)*

Sunday of the Leper

Year 2022, Issue #10



Sunday 6th March 2022

The Gospel

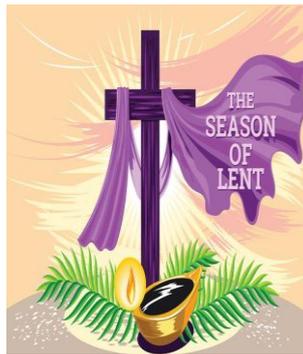
Mark 1: 35-45

In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons. A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, 'If you choose, you can make me clean.' Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I do choose. Be made clean!' Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.' But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

Season of Lent



Next Sunday
Sunday of the Hemorrhaging Woman
Epistle
2 Cor 7: 4-11
Gospel
Luke 8: 40-56



الإنجيل

مر ١: ٣٥-٤٣

قَامَ يَسُوعُ قَبْلَ طُلُوعِ الْفَجْرِ، فَخَرَجَ وَذَهَبَ إِلَى مَكَانٍ قَفْرٍ، وَأَخَذَ يُصَلِّي هُنَاكَ. وَلِجِقَ بِهِ سَمْعَانُ وَالَّذِينَ مَعَهُ، وَوَجَدُوهُ فَقَالُوا لَهُ: «الْجَمِيعُ يَطْلُبُونَكَ». فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «لِنَذْهَبَ إِلَى مَكَانٍ آخَرَ، إِلَى الْقَرْيِ الْمُجَاوِرَةِ، لِأُبَشِّرَ هُنَاكَ أَيْضًا، فَإِنِّي لِهَذَا خَرَجْتُ». وَسَارَ فِي كُلِّ الْجَلِيلِ، وَهُوَ يَكْرِزُ فِي مَجَامِعِهِمْ وَيَطْرُدُ الشَّيَاطِينَ. وَأَنَاهُ أَبْرَصُ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ، فَجَنَّا وَقَالَ لَهُ: «إِنْ شِئْتَ فَأَنْتَ قَادِرٌ أَنْ تُطَهِّرَنِي!». فَتَحَنَّنَ يَسُوعُ وَمَدَّ يَدَهُ وَلَمَسَهُ وَقَالَ لَهُ: «قَدْ شِئْتَ، فَاطْهَرِ!». وَفِي الْحَالِ زَالَ عَنْهُ الْبَرَصُ، فَطَهَّرَ. فَانْتَهَرَهُ يَسُوعُ وَصَرَفَهُ حَالًا، وَقَالَ لَهُ: «أَنْظُرْ، لَا تُخْبِرْ أَحَدًا بِشَيْءٍ، بَلِ ادْهَبْ وَأَرِ نَفْسَكَ لِلْكَاهِنِ، وَقَدِّمْ عَنْ طَهْرِكَ مَا أَمَرَ بِهِ مُوسَى، شَهَادَةً لَهُمْ». أَمَّا هُوَ فَخَرَجَ وَبَدَأَ يَنَادِي بِأَعْلَى صَوْتِهِ وَيُذِيعُ الْخَبَرَ، حَتَّى إِنَّ يَسُوعَ لَمْ يَغْدُ قَادِرًا أَنْ يَدْخُلَ إِلَى مَدِينَةٍ عَلَانِيَةً، بَلْ كَانَ يُقِيمُ فِي الْخَارِجِ، فِي أَمَاكِنَ مُقْفَرَةٍ، وَكَانَ النَّاسُ يَأْتُونَ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ.

Divine Liturgy and Services

Sundays: 9:00am (Arabic), 11:00am (Arabic/English), 6:00pm (English)

Mondays and Tuesdays: 9:00am

Wednesdays – Fridays: 6:00pm

Saturdays: 9:00am and 6:00pm

Confessions: By Appointment

Sick Visits: Contact Clergy or the Parish Office (contact details below)

Parish and Ministry Team and Contact Details

Parish Administrator: Fr Claude Rizk 0422 819 277

Deacons: Nagi Dimian 0403 750 613, Robert-Pio Al Bayeh 0414 447 883, Joseph Maatouk 0413 245 501

Parish Secretary: Debrah Habkook 0422 275 199

Office Hours: Tuesdays – Fridays 9:00am - 5:00pm

Parish Safeguarding Officers: Margaret Simpson 0408 895 798, Jessica Georges 0426 114 696, George Takchi 0419 651 229

Parish Address: 2 Yarrara Road (Corner Wells Street), Thornleigh, NSW, 2120

Phone: (02) 9481 7388

Website: www.stgeorgemcc.org.au

Email: info@stgeorgemcc.org.au



Bishop's Corner: Sunday of the Leper



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Gospels for the Season of Great Lent in the Maronite Church focus on some of the miracles of Christ during his mission on earth. This Sunday, we reflect on the Healing of the Leper (Mark 1:35-43). As I mentioned in my message on Cana Sunday, the theme for our Maronite Lenten Homilies this year is "You are Apostles of Hope!" and this week we reflect on hope and mercy.

Leprosy was one of the most impure diseases for the Jews, so much so that lepers were not allowed to approach others and were cast out of the community. Yet the leper in our Gospel defies this ban, because he had faith and hope that the Lord can heal him. His approach is not one of pride. He recognizes himself as a sinner, and in all humility, he begs the Lord to heal him. Jesus does not ask for more. He heals him and asks him to go and show himself to the priests of the temple so that he can be allowed to join the community again.

What does this mean in our life today? Leprosy is like sin. It separates us from God and our community. Only the Lord can heal us if we approach him in hope, faith, and humility. And during this time of Lent, I encourage you to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where the priest, in the name of the Lord, forgives us our sins and restores us to the communion of the Church.

If we do not recognise our sins and admit them, there is a danger that, over time, our hearts will harden and a distance will be created between us and God. Let us ask the Lord to make us aware of our need for forgiveness. Our parishes offer many opportunities for prayer, adoration and confession in Lent.

The Lord showed his mercy and compassion both for the leper and the people who sought Him. If we approach him with the same faith and the same confidence as the leper saying: "If you choose, you can make me clean." (Mk 1:40), we can be filled with hope in His mercy and his reply: "I do choose. Be made clean!" (Mk 1:41).

When we look at the world around us, we pray that the Lord's compassion touches the hearts of world leaders so they work for peace. We pray for an end to the war in Ukraine. We know the immense cost of war. There can never be any winners in an armed conflict, but only losers.

We also think on this Sunday of our brothers and sisters in Queensland and New South Wales affected by the floods. We pray for those who passed away that their souls rest in peace. May God also grant hope to those who lost their homes and livelihoods so they can rebuild what was lost.

Let us remember that the Lord can make possible what would be impossible for us. Our hope is in His mercy and compassion.

+ **Antoine-Charbel Tarabay**

The Word from Your Servant

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Lent in 2022. In today's Gospel, we reflect on the healing of the Leper. Leprosy was considered dangerous and would kill people little by little. Leprosy is a contagious disease, and was considered a punishment by God, as He no longer loved this leper and condemned him to near death. The Leper was deprived of his social, human and religious rights and was forbidden to go to the temple to pray and offer what the Hebrew law requires.

He rejected himself (his body killed him), he was rejected by the people (they dismissed him), by nature (lives in isolation in the wilderness) and by God who expelled him from his Holy Temple.

- Can we imagine, how cruel and unfair life is? The leper was obliged to wear black because he died in the eyes of everyone, and to wear a bell on his neck, so that if people heard the bell ringing, they would flee from him.
- Can we imagine how much this man missed his family and the temple?
- Can we imagine how much he longed for the touch, or the hug, of his loved ones?

One day, an unexpected surprise, the leper saw a man approaching him. He stared at him and saw for the first time a LOVE he had never experienced before, not in the house, not in nature and not even in himself. It was Jesus, coming from afar, coming for him, coming to touch him, and tell him how much he loves him, and wants to give him HOPE and COMFORT.

If you will, Lord, you are able to cleanse me. It is faith and hope. ***Faith*** is when we let Jesus make the final decision, to allow Him to conduct our lives in the full freedom of knowing that He will always give us the best. He is the only one who can correct our relationship with God, others, and ourselves. He is the only one who can cure us of loneliness, isolation and disease.

Dear brothers and Sisters in Christ, let us search for Jesus in our lives, for a touch from Him that heals us. Let us take a lesson from the leper when we declare that only Jesus can cleanse our thoughts and actions from every sin we commit daily, knowingly, or unknowingly.

My dear brothers and sisters, after 9 years of ordination as a Priest, and after 2 years of pastoral service at St. George Church Thornleigh; the Divine Grace, through His Excellency, Bishop Antoine Charbel Tarabay, has chosen me as Pastoral Administrator of St. George Parish. In my appointment, there is more responsibility, and more is required from me.

I have full faith that through the support and advice of Our Bishop, the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the unspeakable love and presence of our people, we will together be able to achieve many goals worthy of us, the children of the Maronite Church. Especially as I have seen in the past two years many talents and skills of the people within our Parish. I call upon all of us during this Lenten Season to get involved in our activities, liturgies and gatherings which are going to be listed in the newsletter and posted on our social media.

In short, let us pray and ask God through the intercession of Our Lady, and St. George, our patron saint, and St. Joseph (the month of March is dedicated to St Joseph) that we may always be able to do His will by glorifying His name, building the Church and saving souls. **Father Claude Rizk**

... صلاة شكر ...

أَحْبَبْتَنَا، وَمِنْ شِدَّةِ حُبِّكَ، لَمْ تَحْكَمْ عَلَيَّ بَرِّصِنَا، بَلْ رَحَمْتَنَا وَتَجَسَّدْتَ
لِتَمْسَحَ قَرُوحَنَا، وَتَشْفِي جِرَاحَاتِنَا، نَشْكُرُكَ، عَلَيَّ حُبِّكَ اللَّامُتْنَاهِي
لِلْإِنْسَانِيَّةِ، نَشْكُرُكَ عَلَيَّ وَجُودِكَ الَّذِي يُوجِدُ الْحَيَاةَ فِي بَرَارِينَا الْمُقْفَرَةِ،
وَيَمْنَعُ مَعْنَى لُجُودِنَا، نَشْكُرُكَ، نَحْمَدُكَ، وَنَعْبُدُكَ مَعَ أَبِيكَ وَرُوحِكَ
الْقُدُّوسِ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ، آمِينَ.

Parish News and Upcoming Events

St George Maronite Catholic Church, Thornleigh

Friday's in Lent Program

9:00am - Mass

4:30pm - Children's Station of the Cross (followed by Fish and Chips)

6:30pm - Stations of the Cross (Arabic) with Homily led by Fr Claude

8:30pm - Stations of the Cross (English), followed by Sorrowful Mystery Rosary and serving of hot potatoes



LENTEN LUNCH

Mass @ 11am
Followed by FREE Luncheon in the Church Hall

All are welcome

Every Thursday in the Season of Lent

Lebanese Family APPEAL

YOUR DONATION WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A FAMILY IN NEED.

Bible Study

IN YOUR HOME

Commencing in the first week of March on any evening from 7:30pm - 8:30pm.

Open your home and invite whomever you would like to attend. The session can be given in Arabic, English or both!

Please contact Fr Claude, Deacon Najj or Michael Azzi if you would like to host a Bible Study.

First Holy Communion

Registration open for this year's Holy Communion program.

To register, please contact the Parish Office
02 9481 7388
info@stgeorgemcc.org.au

Registrations close
Friday 25th March 2022

ST GEORGE FERSEN

EVERY SATURDAY DURING THE SCHOOL TERM 4.00PM - 5.30PM

YEAR 1 - YEAR 6

Scan me to register your children

St George Maronite Catholic Church Presents

21st Anniversary Dinner

Friday 4th November 2022

Ticket: \$100pp
Venue: Renaissance Lidcome
Room: Ballroom
Time: 7:30pm

Call to secure your seats today!
(02) 9481 7388

St George Maronite Catholic Church

FAITH FORMATION

Ongoing - Presented every second Tuesday

Tuesday, 15th of March
7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

A JOURNEY FROM ANXIETY TO GOD

Dear Parishioners, we will no longer be livestreaming Masses at St George.

The only Mass to be livestreamed will be 9am Sunday Mass.

We pray to see you all at our Mass Services

Stations of the Cross

In English

8:30 pm every Friday
Starting 4th March

The Lenten Season

Sessions commencing:
7:00 pm Wednesday, 2nd March

Memorial Masses		نوايا القداستات			
Sunday 6 th March 2022	11am	40 th Mass for Late Kalim Sarkis Saliba	قداست ٤٠ المرحوم كلیم سرکیس صلیبا	١١ : ٠٠	الاحد ٦ اذار ٢٠٢٢
	4pm	Mass for the Late Hanna Youssef Sarkis	قداست المرحوم حنا یوسف سرکیس	٤ : ٠٠	
Sunday 13 th March 2022	11am	Late Saide Gerges Khamis	قداست المرحومة سعیده جرجس خمیس	١١ : ٠٠	الاحد ١٣ اذار ٢٠٢٢

Congratulations to the Newly Baptised: Edmond Cantrall

Parish Camera



Our first Lenten Luncheon was held this week on Thursday – commencing with Mass followed by lunch.

First Teens talk for this year was held on Wednesday.

Adoration of the Eucharist held this week on Thursday. Make time in this Lenten Season for Christ.

Parish Financial Updates

7th February – 28th February

\$12008.50

Parish Operations Account

\$12,317.70.

Parish Loan Balance

\$611,613.11

Donations to support our ongoing Parish mission can be made at the Parish Office or by internet banking or direct debit - (Account Name: St George Maronite Church, BSB #062-784, Account # 16948504)

To receive our eNewsletter please email info@stgeorgemcc.org.au



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